

## ABSTRACT

5 A method for triggering an optical protection event in an optical layer of a network comprising the following steps: i) monitoring the optical performance of an optical signal transmitted within the optical layer of the network; ii) provisioning optical protection in the event the monitored optical performance falls below a first threshold level; and iii) triggering an optical protection event, in the event the monitored optical performance falls further to below a second threshold level. The monitoring step is performed within the optical layer of the network by using  
10 a proxy to determine an optical performance characteristic which corresponds to the transmission quality of electronic signals extracted from said optical layer signal.

**Include Figure 4A**

15